

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BOGOTA 03523 251907Z

66 62
ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2402

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FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: EAID, CO
SUBJECT: OPIC REPRESENTATIVE IN BOGOTA

OPIC REPRESENTATIVE VELASQUEZ RECENTLY DISCUSSED WITH US THE POSSIBILITY OF HIS PERMANENT ASSIGNMENT IN BOGOTA TO OVERSEE IMPLEMENTATION PHASE OF PRODUCTIVE INVESTMENT GUARANTY PROGRAM. IT IS MY JUDGMENT THAT THE SIZE OF THE US MISSION HERE IS TOO LARGE AND THAT THIS IS NOW A PROBLEM IN TERMS OF BOTH PRESENCE AND EFFICIENT MANAGEMENT. I AM COMMITTED TO THE IG, AS THE DEPARTMENT KNOWS, TO STUDY THE POSSIBILITY OF REDUCING THE STAFF IN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NCASP. RECOMMENDATION: I DO NOT THEREFORE BELIEVE THAT ANY ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL SHOULD BE ADDED OR ANY NEW AGENCIES REPRESENTED UNLESS THERE IS A REAL NECESSITY AND NO VIABLE ALTERNATIVE TO SUCH ADDITIONS.

WHILE I DO NOT DOUBT THAT MR. VELASQUEZ PRESENCE HERE WOULD BE CONVENIENT IT IS NOT NECESSARY, AND SATISFACTORY WAYS OF HANDLING THE PROGRAM ARE AVAILABLE AS I SUGGEST BELOW. MOREOVER, GIVEN GOC SENSITIVITIES ON OTHER ASPECTS OF OPIC PROGRAMS, NAMELY THE SURROGATION QUESTION, MISUNDERSTANDINGS MAY ARISE. I THEREFORE DO NOT CONCUR IN THE ASSIGNMENT OF

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A PERMANENT OPIC REPRESENTATIVE IN COLOMBIA.

2. MR. VELASQUEZ HAS VISITED US PERIODICALLY
TO ASSIST THE BANK OF THE REPUBLIC IN ESTABLISH-
ING THE PROGRAM, AND I CERTAINLY HAVE NO OBJECTION
TO CONTINUING SUCH VISITS IN THE FUTURE. I
SUGGEST THAT OPIC CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY
OF ASSIGNING MR VELASQUEZ TO BOGOTA ON
TEMPORARY DUTY FOR A PERIOD OF ONE OR TWO
MONTHS TO GET THE PROGRAM UNDERWAY. AT THE
SAME TIME, HE COULD TRAIN AN OFFICER ALREADY
HERE ON PERMANENT ASSIGNMENT TO CARRY ON WITH
THE BANK OF THE REPUBLIC AFTER HIS DEPARTURE.
VAKY

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